

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8928

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 12246/1

PASS USDA/FAS/IOA, R. PHILLIPS

STATE FOR BYRNES, IO, AGR

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OCON, FAO

SUBJ: THIRTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND FAR EAST,

MANILA, AUGUST 5-13, 1976

REF: STATE 199457

1. THE CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED BY 8 MINISTERS AND 4 VICE MINISTERS. IN ADDITION, 9 OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM PARTICIPATED.

2. THE CONFERENCE DECIDED TO READOPT EN TOTO THE PRIORITY FORMULATIONS

OF THE 12TH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN TOKYO IN 1974 SINCE THE PROBLEMS CITED AT THE CONFERENCE WERE OF MEDIUM AND LONG TERM IN NATURE AND STILL REMAINED VALID.

3. THE CONFERENCE CONFIRMED THE NOMINATIONS OF BURMA AND INDONESIA TO THE CGFPI AND ELECTED INDIA AND THE PHILIPPINES FOR A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS AS REPRESENTATIVES TO CGIAR.

4. THREE COUNTRIES, NEW ZEALAND, PAKISTAN AND THAILAND EXTENDED INVITATIONS TO HOST THE 14TH SESSION IN 1978. THERE WAS LENGTHY UNCLASSIFIED

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DISCUSSION ON CHANGING THE NAME OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE TO

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC INSTEAD OF ASIA AND THE FAR EAST. THE DECISION FINALLY ADOPTED WAS TO ASK THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNING BODY TO MAKE A DECISION.

5. THE CONFERENCE URGED FAO TO STRENGTHEN ITS SEED SCHEME PROGRAM SO AS TO STIMULATE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OF PAKISTAN INSISTED ON A SPECIAL SCHEME INVOLVING THE ESTABLISHING OF SPECIAL FUND.

6. THERE WAS NO OBJECTION VOICED TO THE MANILA DECLARATION AFTER BEING READ BY THE CHAIRMAN, SECRETARY Tanco. IN A FOUR-HOUR INTENSIVE SESSION ENDING AT 9 P.M. THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, US DELEGATION WAS ABLE TO GET MOST OF CHANGES REFTel ACCEPTED. TEXT OF MANILA DECLARATION ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 1976 FOLLOWS:
QUOTE

MANILA DECLARATION ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, 1976

WE, THE MEMBER NATIONS OF FAO IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC HERE ASSEMBLED IN MANILA AT THE THIRTEENTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE, REPRESENTING TWO AND A QUARTER BILLION PEOPLE OR MORE THAN HALF OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT - NOTWITHSTANDING THE DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE 1974 WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND THE EFFORTS MADE BY MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES - THE PACE OF INTERNATIONAL ACTION FOR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION HAS BEEN DISTRESSINGLY SLOW. WE HERE ASSEMBLED ARE ALSO GRAVELY AWARE THAT THE CONSEQUENCES WILL FALL MOST SEVERELY ON THE TEEMING MILLIONS OF ASIA WHERE HUNGER AND POVERTY ARE WIDESPREAD. CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT MOUNTING HUNGER, MALNUTRITION AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF THIS REGION WOULD HAVE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES ON THE WHOLE WORLD, WE HEREBY ADOPT THIS MANILA DECLARATION ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE:

1. WE AFFIRM AND ACCEPT THAT OUR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT MUST BE ACHIEVED LARGELY BY OUR OWN EFFORTS IN A SPIRIT OF SELF-RELIANCE. WE STRESS THAT IN OUR OWN RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE ACCORD THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SECTOR A KEY POSITION COMMENSURATE WITH ITS PRIMARY ROLE IN OUR ECONOMIES. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT THE SMALL FARMER IS THE BACKBONE OF AGRICULTURE IN OUR COUNTRIES AND MUST BE GIVEN A VITAL ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. WE ACKNOWLEDGE A DIRE NEED TO BREAK THE SHACKLES OF THE PAST BY REMOVING THE PREVAILING TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC AND INSTITUTIONAL CONSTRAINTS WHICH
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TOGETHER COMBINE TO PREVENT OUR PEOPLE, SPECIALLY OUR SMALL FARMERS, FROM INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND IMPROVING THEIR LIVING STANDARDS. WE NOTE WITH REGRET THAT IN MANY OF OUR COUNTRIES THERE IS A LOW LEVEL OF FARM PRODUCTIVITY, INADEQUACIES IN OUR AGRARIAN INSTITUTIONS AND SHORTAGES OF TRAINED PERSONNEL, AND THEREFORE, URGE MEMBER NATIONS INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY TO REINFORCE THEIR EFFORTS TOWARD OVERCOMING THESE DEFICIENCIES SO AS TO ACHIEVE A RURAL BREAK-THROUGH.

2. WE AFFIRM, AT THE SAME TIME, THAT OUR ACTIONS MUST BE SUPPLEMENTED BY RELEVANT ACTIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO REMOVE THE EXTERNAL CONSTRAINTS THAT WEIGH DOWN OUR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP OURSELVES. WE CALL, THEREFORE, ON ALL NATIONS TO JOIN US IN CREATING A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND EQUALITY AND IN THE INTEREST OF DEVELOPING NATIONS.

3. WE ASSERT THAT ANOTHER KEY CONSTRAINT TO THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF MOST MEMBER NATIONS OF ASIA IS THE LACK OF STABILITY AND PROFITABILITY IN WORLD PRICES OF THE PRIME AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES. WE, THEREFORE, CALL FOR IMMEDIATE INTERNATIONAL ACTION WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM TO STABILIZE WORLD PRICES OF SUCH COMMODITIES AT REASONABLY PROFITABLE LEVELS IN ACCORD WITH THE RESOLUTION IN THE REGARD OF UNCTAD IV.

4. WE ALSO CALL UPON THE FAO AND ALL OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH TO GIVE GREATER SUPPORT TO HELPING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL RESEARCH EFFORTS OF MEMBER NATIONS. WE ALSO ASK THAT THESE INSTITUTIONS DIRECT THEIR CAPABILITIES TOWARD RESEARCH SUBJECTS AND METHODS WHICH ARE MOST SUITABLE AND MORE DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND PROBLEMS OF THE COUNTRIES OF THIS REGION.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT WHILE MOST OF OUR ASIAN MEMBER NATIONS CAN EXPAND OUR OWN INTERNATIONAL CREDIT PROGRAMMES TO REACH SMALL FARMERS, THERE CONTINUES TO BE IMPERATIVE NEED FOR INCREASED AND SUSTAINED DEVELOPMENT FINANCING AND INVESTMENT IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF DEVELOPING NATIONS. WE THEREFORE CALL ON DEVELOPED COUNTRIES,

ON OPEC, AND ON ALL OUR MEMBER NATIONS TO FINALLY ESTABLISH AND OPERATE THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS, UNCLASSIFIED

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TOGETHER WITH THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES BEING DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BY THE OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL FINANCING INSTITUTIONS, WILL HELP ACCELERATE OUR OWN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. TO THIS END, WE WELCOME ALL EFFORTS THAT WILL HELP INCREASE THE TOTAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES GOING TO FOOD PRODUCTION AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

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6. WE EMPHASIZE THAT, SINCE AGRICULTURAL PLANNING AND PRODUCTION IS STILL AFFECTED BY THE FICKLENESS OF THE WEATHER WHICH CAUSES SUDDEN FAMINE AND FOOD SHORTAGES, THERE IS A SUPREME NECESSITY TO ASSURE WORLD FOOD SECURITY UNTIL WE ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND BUILD UP ADEQUATE NATIONAL STOCKS. WE CALL THEREFORE ON ALL MEMBER NATIONS TO SUPPORT THE FAO WORLD FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMME. WE NOTE WITH DISSATISFACTION THAT THE FOOD AID TARGET OF 10 MILLION TONS SET BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE TWO YEARS AGO HAS NOT YET BEEN ACHIEVED. WE ARE ALSO GRAVELY DISSAPPOINTED THAT THERE IS AN ALMOST TOTAL LACK OF RESPONSE TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALL FOR AN EMERGENCY RESERVE OF HALF A MILLION TONS OF GRAIN. WHATEVER REASONS THERE MAY BE FOR SUCH FAILURE TO ACHIEVE THESE TARGETS, IT IS CLEAR THAT OUR PEOPLES IN ASIA WILL BE THE ONES WHO WILL SUFFER MOST. WE, THEREFORE, STRONGLY CALL UPON THE AFFLUENT NATIONS TO FULFIL THESE TARGETS FOR FOOD AID AND EMERGENCY RESERVES.

7. WE HERE ASSEMBLED RESOLVE TO SUPPORT THE NEW LEADERSHIP AND INITIATIVES OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPERATION OF THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION

PROGRAMME OF THE FAO. WE ALSO ENDORSE THE NEW THRUST OF THE FAO TO DECENTRALIZE TO COUNTRY LEVEL.

WHEREFORE -

WE, THE MEMBER NATIONS OF FAO IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, DEEPLY
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CONSCIOUS OF OUR COMMON PROBLEMS AND UNITED IN OUR RESOLVE TO ELIMINATE HUNGER AND POVERTY IN OUR REGION, DO HEREBY PLEDGE OUR RENEWED EFFORTS TO REMOVE OUR INTERNAL CONSTRAINTS MOBILIZE OUR VAST HUMAN AND NATURAL RESOURCES. WE CALL UPON THE DEVELOPED NATIONS

AND THE REST OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO REMOVE THE EXTERNAL CONSTRAINTS WHICH PREVENT US FROM THUS ACHIEVING OUR HIGHEST POTENTIALS.

WE THEREFORE INVITE ALL NATIONS TO JOIN US IN A TRUE PARTNERSHIP TO ERADICATE HUNGER AND POVERY IN THE WORLD AND TO THIS END DO HEREBY SOLEMNLY ADOPT THIS MANILA DECLARATION ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE OF 1976.

END QUOTE

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